

trained one will sometimes do unexpected things like shying or rearing or whirling about suddenly to start for home. Often you can detect his purpose and distract his attention by spurring him up a little or turning him a bit--give him something else to think about besides the contemplated "dirty work". 7. Kindness and patience are more effective with a horse than harsher methods--let him know what you want, but--it pays to be as quiet with him as possible. 8. If the horse runs with you against your will, remember that the run is an easy gait to sit and don't become tense. Pull him back vigorously although perhaps not with a steady pull. Pull hard, relax a bit and pull hard again. Turning him may help to stop him, especially if there is a bank to turn him toward.

Miss Hoover

How should the directions be given to the horse to change his gaits?

Mr. Mott

An experienced rider gives directions with hands, knees, heels, and sometimes riding crop or spurs. A low verbal command is permissible but never a loud or sharp tone. Horses are very sensitive to loud sudden noises and often become unstrung when shouted at.

Miss Hoover

What is the near side and what the far side of a horse? I have heard the terms used often and I am never certain as to their meaning?

Mr. Mott

The near side is the left side, the far side, the right side of a horse. In other words, the side you mount from is the near side. Nearly all work with a saddle horse is done from the left side--hence the "near" side.

Miss Hoover

Do you have routes that the riders may take when they come for pleasure riding?

Mr. Mott

Yes, I have many routes for hour riders to take for an enjoyable ride and others which take longer periods of time as desired. I also have a riding ring for ring work which is excellent for helping beginners and for practice in gaiting and drill work. I have hurdles which can be set up on the riding ring and adjusted to the desired height for instruction in jumping. I have a large pasture--about 46 acres--which makes a good place for cross country riding--plenty of hills, timber, and roughness for those who wish to "get out in the country". There are grand places for steak fries and picnics.

Miss Hoover

Are visitors welcome at your stables at any time or do you have special days for "open house" so to speak?